

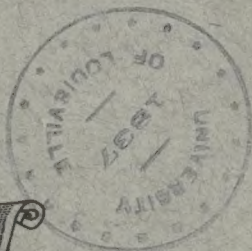
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TAI-SHAN

The Holy Mountain
in
Shan-tung

BY

Julia Ellsworth Ford



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1881



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TAI-SHAN

The Holy Mountain of Shan-tung

About two years ago I was in Japan and China; and I came back with a deep pity and love for China, which I believe everyone feels who has visited that wonderful, barbaric country with many highly civilized inheritors scattered all through it. Japan was like a beautiful lyric poem, China a great epic poem.

When I heard that Shan-tung was to be turned over to the control of the Japanese Government, through drastic economic concessions, my first thought was: Could it be possible that Tai-shan and the vicinity of the Holy Mountain was included in that treaty. Imagine the indignation of the Japanese if their worshipped Fujiyama had been given by the Big Four to China for her part in the war! It seemed difficult to find out the truth about Tai-shan. One or two articles in the papers claimed that it was not included in the deal, but for the most part the question was not touched on. Turning over the Holy Land of China—sacred since two thousand years before Christ—a country which was supposed to be China's ally, seemed a matter of small account not only to the Big Four but to Western public opinion.

The following letter is from a young Chinese who was kind enough to answer some of my questions.

"The transfer of all German rights and privileges in Shan-tung would necessarily mean a complete surrender of the Holy Mountain to Japanese control. To substitute Japan for Germany as possessor of rights in this territory is to endanger greatly the welfare of the Chinese Republic, because Japan is much nearer to China than is Germany, and because she already claims a "sphere of influence" in Manchuria, close to the north of Shan-tung Province. Moreover, by the secret agreement between Japan and the government in Peking, which was signed by our delegates under Japanese duress and trickery on September 14th, 1918, Japan holds, among

other things, two important railways in Shan-tung Province as well as the Kiao-chou-Tsi-nan Railway. Since this secret agreement has not been declared void by the Council at the Paris Conference, the concession therefore remains in effect, notwithstanding its violent challenge against the principle of open diplomacy repeatedly enunciated by President Wilson. As a result of all this, Japan gets an absolute control over the economic interests in Shan-tung. The economic control will inevitably result in political domination. Therefore it is easily seen that the present Shan-tung settlement virtually gives the whole province of Shan-tung to Japan, instead of a mere German lease of Kiao-chou."

The Holy Mountain, Tai-shan, is thirty-five miles from the capital of Shan-tung, Tsi-nan-fu. It is probably the oldest sacred mountain in the world. Pilgrims worshipped on it as many years before Christ as we have lived since, and the annual pilgrimage still takes place in February and March, and as many as ten thousand people have made the ascent daily.

There were no hotels for us in Tai-an-fu; so that we had to arrange with one of the missionaries, who housed us very comfortably. After breakfast on the veranda with his little family, we were prepared to ascend the mountain. Chair-bearers were procured to carry us up and back in a day. The chair is unlike any other chair used in China. It is peculiar to Tai-shan. One man walks in front and one behind. They have a strong strap over one shoulder, thus suspending the pilgrim. Each of our chairs had four men, so that they might be relieved. The men in the Shan-tung district are larger than the men in southern China. Our powerful head-guide was six feet, five inches tall and, though speaking almost no English was quick to understand and most kindly and courteous. Strange to say, the chair-bearers are not of the religion of those who worship in the Tai-shan temple but are Mohammedans, who have long held this concession.

The ascent is very steep. There are six thousand stone steps about fifteen feet wide, a remarkable piece of engineering done by the ancient Chinese. A deep ravine, cascades, rushing water, great pines and gnarled old cypresses add to the wonder and beauty of the ascent. The first glimpse of the gateway to the old temple, the third of the Gates of Heaven,

was like a vision in the clouds. When we reached it, it seemed the top; but after we passed thought it, another ascent confronted us. Here we climbed a winding path to the temple at the very summit, from which is seen one of the finest views in all China—China's Holy land.

Most of the pilgrims mount on foot. Some of the most devout crawl on their knees. We saw Chinese women with their small deformed feet wearily dragging themselves up the steps. We saw luxurious natives too, borne in richly ornamented palanquins. In olden times Emperors and members of their Court, who worshipped and sacrificed here, were carried in this fashion. The temples are filled with presents from the Emperors of the various Dynasties. The largest temple is dedicated to Yu-Huang, Taoist Emperor of the Sky. Another was built to honor the memory of Confucius and contains a copy of the famous image of China's greatest philosopher and sage. At the top, near the cliff from which religious fanatics used to throw themselves in such numbers that the authorities had to guard the place with a high wall, is a stone monument with the inscription, "This marks the spot where Confucius stood and felt the smallness of the world below."

Confucius, Mencius and Lao-tze were all born during the Chou Dynasty, the longest dynasty in the history of China, lasting from 1122 B. C. to 249 B. C.

Then came Shih Hwang-ti, the Chinese Napoleon. From his date, 221 B. C. (the founding of the Chin Dynasty, from which China takes her name) China remained an empire for two thousand years. This emperor built the Great Wall, to keep the Tartars out. I wish today another wall might be built to keep the grabbing English, French and Japanese out. He also burned the libraries. I wish there were a library today containing all the treaties imposed on China—and a power to burn them!

In the following Dynasty of Han, Prince Han who by the way restored the libraries, set the example of offering sacrifices at the tomb of Confucius in Chu-fou, which is in Shan-tung Province not far from Tai-Shan. Here Confucius was born, lived and was buried. His descendant, The Duke of Kung, still lives in Chu-fou and has been able to forbid a foreign railroad to defile so sacred a place. The magnificent

temple in Chu-fou is the finest in China. It is in a park of stately cypresses. Tablets marking the resting-place of the great Confucius—if today he rests! Confucius taught loyalty, faithfulness, sincerity, simple, honest precepts for the relation of man to man! The exclamation at the end of my sentence is all that is needed.

Chu-fou is also the burial-place of the son of the famous Emperor who built the Great Wall—and who has birds embroidered on the uniforms of civil officials, and beasts of prey on those of military officers. The latter might be appropriate symbols to offer today to China's European friends for the uniforms of their diplomats and statesmen.

And what is Japan's point of view? Japan doubtless feels that China's independence of Western Nations is desirable for the security of both Japan and China. And she must maintain her hold against both England and France, whom she sees not contented with what they had before the war. England, to be sure, with "spheres of influence" ten times the size of those of France. Although China has not been their enemy but their ally, they are both quite willing, in return for further concessions on the horizon or already over it, to bind Japan, under subterfuge of surrender by Germany the powerful economic rights of Shan-tung, which Germany by the terms of her agreement with China, had no legal ability to assign. And they want us meekly to underwrite their villany and indorse a breach of international law. I heartily believe in a League of Nations and I think we will get it but what kind of League of Nations can be built on this denial of its very foundation?

France, in 1916, deliberately and forcibly stole Lao Hsi Kai, a tract of three hundred and thirty-three acres in Tien-tsin. Ellen La Mottee tells in her interesting book, "Peking Dust," how she asked a Frenchman there about it. He said, "For fourteen years we have been wanting that piece of land * * *. Knowing that we had asked for it in 1902, they still had the audacity to ask for more time. * * * Ah, these Chinese! They are impossible. No one can understand them." One would smile. But it is too tragic. Without even any pretext this time, the French finally seized what they wanted, at the point of the bayonet, wantonly dispossessing the Chinese inhabitants.

England's methods are not so open.

The total area of the Chinese Republic is about 4,300,000 square miles. Before the war, the spheres of influence of the major nations were as follows: Russia 1,821,000 square miles; England 1,199,000; France 146,700; Germany 55,000; Japan, 186,000. One of the minor effects of these spheres of influence, by the way, appears to be the official closure of the territory concerned, quite regardless of Chinese preference, to American capital.

Miss La Motte tells a story of how China needed railroads, but had no money to build them herself, while the great nations who claim 75 per cent. of her soil had not time to build them for her during the war. The head of a certain great American corporation appeared before the Chinese officials one day and made his request.

"Our American laid his finger on that part of the map colored red.

" 'I'll do the work here,' he said to the Chinese.

" 'Excuse me,' interrupted a representative of a foreign government, 'you can't go there. That red part of China belongs to Great Britain.'

" 'I'll go here,' said the American.

" 'Excuse me,' said another European gentleman, 'you can't do it there. That part belongs to Russia.'

" 'Here then,' continued the American, 'this will do.'

"Another suave, alert, diplomatic gentleman stepped forth. 'That,' he said regretfully, 'is French.'

"So it went all over the map.

"Finally, in exasperation, the American turned to the silent Chinese and asked, 'Where the Hell is China.' "

To quote from an article on Shan-tung in the New Republic for July 30th: "Behind Shan-tung there looms a vaster bargain in Tri-Power agreement between England, France and Japan for control of a great bulk of the continent of Asia." If there was no such agreement Japan might feel that a China helplessly indebted to Occidental nations might grant the establishment of rights there which would menace the defense of Japan. She might well feel that to protect the East she must acquire dominance in both China and Eastern Siberia. She might well be in Shan-tung today to prevent a third power becoming established there. But does not the

League of Nations preclude the possibility of any such future division or monopoly of loot? Might not the nations of Europe now join with Japan for the peace and safety of the world, in withdrawing their talons from China? Why must the discipline be put entirely upon Japan, the only nation whose home may be threatened by the general aggrandizement? The reason is that if discipline and reformation do not begin somewhere they never begin. Moreover Japan's official conduct and policy has been the most markedly and openly vicious in treatment of the Chinese.

"Japan will return Shan-tung." When? "She means to be most generous to China." What shall she be judged by? Her actions in Manchuria and Korea? Her present treatment of the Chinese in Shan-tung?

I met a man in the Orient (whose word I have every reason to credit) who told me that one thousand Chinese had died in one year in a single town in Manchuria, from the effects of morphine, illegally imported and imposed by the Japanese. In fact Japan's whole record in Manchuria has been as oppressive, immoral and brutal as her record in Korea.

To quote W. W. Willoughby, formerly American legal adviser to the Chinese President: "In numberless ways no attention has been paid in Shan-tung by the Japanese to the Chinese people. In violation of Chinese law, many tons of the copper currency of the common people and the copper "cash" have been collected and exported to Japan. The salt administration has been defrauded of great revenues, and worse than all, tons of morphine have been introduced into this country in the form of military supplies or through Japanese parcels. From this infamous traffic alone it is known that millions of dollars have been received by the Japanese in Shan-tung."

To quote from Thomas F. Millard's enlightening book, "Democracy and the Eastern Question" as to opium from India and Persia: "One must emphasize that this opium is not imported into Japan. It is transhipped in Kobe harbor to Tsing-tao, from which point of vantage assisted by the Japanese-controlled railway to Tsi-nan-fu, it is smuggled through Shan-tung into Shanghai and the Yang-tze valley * * * Through Tsing-tao morphia is showered over Shan-tung Province * * * When Chinese police raid the morphia shops

along the Tsi-nan-fu railway in Shan-tung, as they have a right to do, for the traffic is illegal. Japanese gendarmerie rescue the arrested and exact a fine from them, not from the guilty be it understood, but from those who attempt to uphold the law * * * No inspection of parcels in the Japanese post-offices in China is permitted to the China Customs Service * * * Article 3 in the Agreement of August 6, 1915, provides that any goods landed in Tsing-tao under 'certificates of government' shall be free from Customs examination. The way has thus been opened not only for the illegal import of opium, but of contraband in arms, by which the bandits of Shan-tung Province are provided with the means of harrying and looting and murdering the peaceful peasants of the most sacred province of China."

It is not only land and self-determination that foreigners have taken from China. That is bad enough. But through the introduction of opium from British India and now morphia from Japan they have pretty nearly submerged her physically and morally.

Even today I understand, that opium is licensed in the British concessions over which the Chinese have no control. When we took the Philippines the first thing we did was to wipe out opium.

British Indian opium was early forced on China by the British government. In 1839 she determined to abolish the traffic. Opium was seized and 20,291 chests destroyed. A year later as punishment Hong Kong was ceded to Great Britain and \$21,000,000 had to be paid, \$6,000,000 of which was for opium that the Chinese had destroyed in their efforts at self-defense against the vilest of weapons. What would England do if another nation landed opium on her coast? And yet, because opium was a profitable government monopoly, Britain was within a year or two systematically plying the Chinese, whom she was supposed to be guiding as a friend, with a drug which she condemned and prohibited among her own people. The Shanghai Opium Combine was making recently \$22,000,000 per annum importing opium from British India, where the Government, for growth of opium and for no other purpose, loaned money without interest. The well-known ten year's contract apparently concluded the importation of India's opium into China in April, 1917. But the

The Chinese Vice-President is said to have been bribed for \$5,000,000. The Chinese Government, poor as it was, had to buy it, presumably for medicinal purposes. Great credit must be given to China that in the winter of 1918 she burned it. But now the Japanese, following the example of England in India, are busy growing opium in Korea and Formosa, and are imposing it on China in the shape of morphine, the effects of which are even more deadly. According to Thomas F. Millard: "Her profits from it in 1913 were \$8,400,000 and they have increased enormously during the war."

Shanghai Opium Combine had somehow \$20,000,000 worth of opium on hand. These Chinese Vice-President is said to have been bribed for \$5,000,000. The Chinese Government, poor as it was, had to buy it, presumably for medicinal purposes. Great credit must be given to China that in the winter of 1918 she burned it. But now the Japanese, following the example of England in India, are busy growing opium in Korea and Formosa, and are imposing it on China in the shape of morphine, the effects of which are even more deadly. According to Thomas F. Millard: "Her profits from it in 1913 were \$8,400,000 and they have increased enormously during the war."

We note that opium has never been imported into England or Japan. Why has it been forced on China? For material gain? Or to ruin the people, to enslave them, to make them helpless against interference and oppression?

Foreigners might better control all China's land as Great Britain has controlled all land in India, and now in Egypt, than drug a race. There might be some hope of 400,000,000 Chinese freeing themselves from the tyranny of their enemies in due time, but if they continue to be drugged by opium and morphine by Japan as they have in the past by Great Britain, China is lost. An obvious, just and necessary agreement among the powers would be the abolition of the opium in India, the main source of the unspeakable poison. Whatever the outcome of the Senate discussion it has at least brought before the people of the world, the long standing foreign tyranny over China and the hideous live menace of the opium trade, a menace on which for some reason there has been far too little light.

It was in Shan-tung that the organizing of the Boxers took place. The defeat of Korea by Japan, with other acts of aggression by foreign powers and the granting of railroad concessions, was what stirred anti-foreign feeling; and it was most intense in Shan-tung. Its purpose was to expel all foreigners from China and to get rid of their influence. The movement was promoted by a union of high conservative officials and the illiterate classes. It was a movement of violence.

Five hundred years ago the Chinese used successfully, to expel or subdue the Mongols, a different method, a method

*Work ten months ago he had been
smuggled into Beattie. Also opium
has been smuggled - later into
Mexico and South America. How
did it come from!*

called "The Ten Men Group System." Today this system, by which each man pledges nine others, ten groups of ten units to make a group of a hundred, ten of those to make a thousand, etc., is being organized, for commercial and social boycott, by Chinese students and merchants, who insist that the Japanese Twenty-one Demands be cancelled. The movement is spreading and threatens to be overwhelming, if it be not diverted to serve the interests of political factions.

While China is trying to help herself, what are we doing to help her? What shall be given her for sending two hundred and fifty thousand men to Europe to assist France and England and ourselves? Some of her own lands and rights which had been stolen from her? Alas, while the Allies were urging China to enter the War, telling her of the great advantage it would be to her, they were secretly planning and agreeing to control and exploit more of her territory.

Why was Shan-tung, one of the richest provinces in China, with net profits in 1912 of \$300,000,000 a year from her railroads, yielded to Japan? Was it in order that England might presently have further control over Sze-cheun with a population of sixty-five million?—or that she might exploit Thibet, whose autonomy, just arranged between Britain and China, is doubtless the opening for further British kindness, as in Egypt and Persia? And what is France's share of the bargain?

President Wilson admits himself that he does not like the Shantung award, and looks to Japan to right it. Does he infer this from Japan's actions in the past? He looks to the League of Nations to bring about revision if Japan should not voluntarily do so. When we consider that the powerful parties in the League are Great Britain and France, who have treaties with Japan, how can they force Japan to evacuate stolen territory unless they return territory they have stolen themselves. Otherwise Japan will prefer to keep Shan-tung as England and France will keep their stolen possessions.

America has been China's only friend. Our record in the Far East is well-nigh irreproachable. What can helpless China do alone against England, France and Japan with their secret treaties and their encroachments upon her land, laws and morals? With recent developments, in India and Egypt,

of the cruelty of British rule, with Japan's treatment of Koreans, and of the Chinese in Manchuria and now in Shantung it is not difficult to understand China's dread of the well-named "foreign devil."

Although Lord Balfour assured Parliament during the war that America was informed of all secret treaties among the Allies, it now appears that he must have forgotten the treaties with Japan concerning China. Hardly fair treatment of the United States in return for our conclusive help! It appears to have been a dishonest and high-handed slight,—but, as it happens, a slight not to our discredit, in that it leaves us now a free hand to help a nation we had almost been forced to betray.

Though Great Britain and France may have treaties with Japan binding them legally, have we not a moral pledge to China binding us ethically, and should our national honor be sacrificed because our two chief associates did not see fit, according to President Wilson's testimony, to take us into their confidence?

It is the present governments, not the people of Great Britain, France, Japan and the United States who are trying to destroy China.

Mr. Millard suggests a remedy: "You can fix it up without changing a line or a coma of the League of Nations Covenant or of the treaty * * * Just write a clause into the proposed French alliance under which the United States and Great Britain undertake to go to the aid of France in an emergency—just add to that, a clause whereby Great Britain and France in their turn agree to support the United States, if the Hay doctrine of the Open Door is threatened. Make it fifty-fifty alliance. As it now stands we agree to do something for France but we get nothing."

China and her European Allies!

Chinese students are reading Shakespeare. When they read of Shylock, they may well think of Europeans demanding for Japan, and even more for themselves, the pound of flesh—and the life-blood of a nation.

JULIA ELLSWORTH FORD,
Rye, New York, Sept. 11, 1919.

P. S.—The impression given by President Wilson is that we are legally bound to a regrettable stand in the matter of Shan-tung on account of treaties and agreements amongst our associates. But it must be emphasized that Germany by her agreement with China was pledged never to assign her rights in Shan-tung and that China's 1918 agreement to abide by any arrangement between Germany and Japan was signed, according to Mr. Guy M. Walker, by only one Chinese official, not the president, and never even submitted to the Chinese parliament. Therefore the disposition of Shan-tung by Japan, Great Britain, France, Germany and one Chinese official which we are now asked to recognize and endorse, is legally indefensible.

